

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03797 211002Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----069414 211004Z /23

O 210933Z MAR 78 ZFF6
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2052
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3797

EXDIS -- DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, USC, PBOR, IS, LE, SY, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: A RAP ON WEIZMAN'S KNUCKLES

REF: TEL AVIV 3714

1. FOR WHATEVER EFFECT IT MAY HAVE, I TOOK WEIZMAN
TO TASK THIS MORNING FOR NOT LEVELLING WITH US ABOUT
IDF INTENTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON DURING AIRPORT CONVERSATION
SUNDAY MORNING (REFTEL). TOLD HIM I HAD FOUND HIS
BEHAVIOR PUZZLING AND DISTURBING. REMINDED HIM THAT AT
HIS SPECIFIC REQUEST I HAD SENT A CABLE TO THE SECRETARY
RELAYING HIS APOLOGIES FOR DINITZ HAVING MISLED US
OVER COMMANDO OPERATION NORTH OF LITANI. HERE WAS SECOND
BLATANT EXAMPLE OF DECEPTION HARD ON HEELS OF FIRST ONE.

2. SAID I HAD PLAYED STRAIGHT WITH HIM AND IN RETURN
HE HAD PUT ME IN POSITION OF LOOKING LIKE A FOOL. TOLD
HIM I DID NOT APPRECIATE DEALING WITH ANYONE IN

SECRET

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THIS FASHION, LEAST OF ALL WITH A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WHO I ALSO THOUGHT WAS A FRIEND.

3. WEIZMAN WAS EXTREMELY APOLOGETIC. SAID HE COULD
OFFER NO EXCUSE SAVE THAT HE HAD NOT FELT IT APPROPRIATE
TO DISCUSS A MILITARY OPERATION IN PROGRESS. THERE WAS
NO INTENTION OF BEING MISLEADING. HE HOPED I

UNDERSTOOD THE PRESSURE HE WAS UNDER. EVENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON HAD NOT GONE ACCORDING TO PLAN AND HE WAS TAKING HEAT FROM ALL SIDES. LAST THING HE WANTED TO DO WAS TO BRUISE OUR RELATIONSHIP.

4. COMMENT: I AM CONVINCED THAT REASON WEIZMAN DID NOT MENTION GOI DECISION SUNDAY MORNING TO COMPLETE SWEEP TO THE LITANI WAS BECAUSE HE DID NOT WISH TO BE PUT IN POSITION OF BEING TOLD BY US TO STOP OPERATION. FAIT ACCOMPLI IS NAME OF THE GAME IN ISRAEL AND WEIZMAN IS GOOD AT IT. ALL THE SAME, DECIDED TO BRACE HIM HARD ON THIS EPISODE BECAUSE I AM CONVINCED WE CAN STILL MAKE AN HONEST MAN OUT OF HIM.
VIETS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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